

DESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1946



# Urban District of Desborough

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## Members of the Public Health Committee:

MR. R. G. MARLOW (Chairman).  
MESSRS. H. COE, R. G. COE, W. J. HOLLAND, MRS. A. B. LOCK,  
MESSRS. A. H. NOON and J. TOWNLEY.

## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

### Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.  
Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the  
Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell, the  
Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health  
and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire  
County Council

### Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.M. & Cy.E., A.R.S.I.

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Public Health Department,  
75 London Road,  
Kettering;

July, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Desborough Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lock and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health  
and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1946.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of  
the Public Health Committee for their support and also to the Clerk,  
and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Harris, for his willing help and  
co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. MURPHY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Area (acres) ... ..	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ... ..	4707	4643	4316	4226	4429
Number of Live Births ... ..	60	78	100	66	99
Legitimate ... ..	58	71	88	59	96
Illegitimate ... ..	2	7	12	7	3
Birthrate per 1,000 population ... ..	12.74	16.79	23.16	15.61	22.35
Number of Still Births ... ..	1	2	—	1	4
Legitimate ... ..	1	2	—	1	4
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..	16.39	25	—	14.92	38.83
Rate per 1,000 population ... ..	0.21	0.43	—	0.23	0.90
Number of Deaths ... ..	50	51	55	52	47
Death rate per 1,000 population (crude) ... ..	10.62	10.98	12.74	12.30	10.61
Total Maternal Deaths ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	Nil	56.33	40.00	15.15	30.30
Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	4	1	3	1	—
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	4	1	2	—	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	5	9	8	9	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

# BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1946.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Influenza	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales...	19.1	0.53	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.15	4.4	43
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	22.2	0.67	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.13	6.1	46
148 Smaller Towns (estd. resident popu- lations, 25,000— 50,000) ...	21.3	0.59	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.14	2.8	37
London ...	21.5	0.54	12.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.12	4.2	41
Desborough Urban District	22.35	0.90	10.61	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.67	—	30.30
The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales per 1,000 total births												
			...	0.13	0.06	0.18	0.06	0.18	0.18	0.18	1.06	1.43
The Maternal Mortality rates for Desborough Urban Dist. 1,000 total births												
			...	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

## SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres) ... ..	2,400
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population ...	4,429
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books ... ..	1,428
Rateable Value ... ..	£ 21,529
Sum represented by Penny Rate ... ..	£84

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:—  
Boot and shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of  
cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

<b>LIVE BIRTHS.</b>	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ... ..	96	47	49
Illegitimate ... ..	3	2	1
Totals ... ..	99	49	50

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 22.35

<b>STILL BIRTHS.</b>	Total	Males	Females
	4	2	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 38.83

<b>DEATHS</b>	Total	Males	Females
	47	30	17

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident  
population ... .. 10.61

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	nil
Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... ..	nil

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	30.30
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	31.25
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	9
Deaths—No "comparability" factor was issued for 1946.	

**Births:**—The following table shows the birth rate for 1946 together with the rate for England and Wales.

Live Birth Rates, 1946.

Desborough	...	...	...	22.35
England and Wales	...	...	...	19.1

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternity and child welfare.

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1946.

Desborough	...	...	...	30.30
England and Wales	...	...	.....	43

The registered causes of death were as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	30	17	47
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2 Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	—	—
7 Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
8 Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
9 Influenza	2	1	3
10 Measles	—	—	—
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
12 Acute infantile encephalitis	—	—	—
13 Cancer	7	2	9
14 Diabetes	—	—	—
15 Heart Disease	6	2	8
16 Intracranial vascular lesions	5	5	10
17 Other circulatory diseases	1	—	1
18 Bronchitis	—	—	—
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	2
20 Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
22 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
23 Appendicitis	—	—	—



## Registered Causes of Death—continued.

					Males	Females	Total
24	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2
25	Nephritis	...	...	...	2	2	4
26	Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	—	—
27	Premature Birth	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Congenital debility, malformation, and birth injury				1	—	1
29	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
30	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	1	1
32	All other causes	...	...	...	4	1	5

## SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations have been carried out by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton.

The following specimens were examined:— 1946

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	2
Blood	...	...	...	...	...	—
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	—
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	—
Hairs from scalp (suspected Ringworm)						1

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—Infectious cases are removed by the ambulance of the Joint Hospital Board. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by the ambulance under the administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The Desborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association provides the services of two whole time nurses. Details of the work carried out during 1946 are as follows:

	Cases Nursed.			Total
General	Midwifery	Maternity	Visits	
119	22	46	4292	

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Child Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The County Council is the Authority for the treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market Street, Kettering.

Orthopaedic cases attend the Manfield Orthopaedic clinic at Kettering.



Persons suffering from Venereal Diseases are treated at the Kettering and District General Hospital every Thursday evening under the County Council scheme.

Under the Scabies Order, 1941, one case was reported during the year 1946.

Diphtheria Immunisation:—From 1941 free immunisation against Diphtheria was offered to children from one to fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1946 is as follows:—

under 5 years	...	...	...	...	32
5 to 14 years	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	33

The number of children who have had the full course of immunisation since the beginning of the scheme is as follows:—

Age at 31-12-46	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Number immunised	—	12	32	43	41

Estimated mid-year population, 1946, 342.

Age at 31-12-46	5 to 9	10 to 14
i.e. Born in Year	1937-1941	1932-1936
Number immunised	211	277

Estimated mid-year population, 1946, 524.

Total number under 15 immunised ... .. 616

The above figures do not include those children immunised by private arrangement.

### SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**Water Supply:** A good supply of water both in quantity and quality was maintained throughout the year. At no time was it found necessary to enforce restriction or curtail the supply.

Two bacteriological examinations of supply were made, one after a wet period and the other during a dry spell, and both were reported as being "very satisfactory."

From a chemical examination it was shown that the water apart from being very hard, to be of good quality and safe for drinking purposes. The water has no plumbe-solvent action.

Approximately a seventh of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the Town, are served by standpipes in the yard or at the rear of houses. The water service is direct to all other dwellings.

Five farms being a long distance from the service mains are without a piped water supply.

**Drainage and Sewerage:** No new works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal have been necessary.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been well maintained and can deal efficiently with the daily flow. The effluent produced has been uniformly good throughout the year.

Sewage sludge has been disposed of to allotment holders. 98 loads being delivered by the Council.

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area:** During the year 186 inspections were made. 34 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No statutory notices were necessary.

**Rats and Mice Destruction Act:** The administration of the above act again received full attention. The Northamptonshire War Agricultural Executive Committee in agreement with the Council treated the House Refuse Tip and Sewage Disposal Works.

The sewers have been baited and no baits were taken.

## **SECTION D. \* Housing.**

Eighteen houses were commenced during the year and twenty-five completed all by private enterprise. The foregoing were built on individually owned plots and occupied by people of the working class.

Eighteen houses were commenced on the Hill Top Estate for the Council and none were completed.

**Overcrowding:** Three cases of overcrowding remained outstanding.

**Factories Act, 1937:** Factories have now been deconcentrated after the War-time Emergency. In all cases the opportunity was taken to carry out internal cleansing and decorating. In three cases very necessary improvements were made to the sanitary accommodation. In two cases canteens have been provided.

## **SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

75 samples of raw milk were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test. 59 were found to be good, 10 moderate and 6 bad. 29 samples of pasteurised milk were sent for the phosphatase test. 27 were found to be satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory. 31 samples were sent for the methylene blue test and the result was satisfactory in all cases.

### Raw Milk Examination, 1946.

Category		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June
Good	... ..	7	5	6	—	6	5
Moderate	... ..	—	2	1	—	—	1
Bad	... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals		7	8	7	—	6	6

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Category		July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Good	... ..	3	5	6	6	4	6	59
Moderate	... ..	3	—	—	2	1	—	10
Bad	... ..	—	2	1	—	2	—	6
Totals		6	7	7	8	7	6	75

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Total for Year, 75.

### SECTION F.—Infectious Diseases.

**Scarlet Fever:** Three cases were notified, two removed to hospital and all recovered.

**Measles:** Only two cases were notified. They were nursed at home and recovered.

**Whooping Cough:** Four cases were notified during the year. All were nursed at home and recovered.

**Diphtheria:** One case was notified in an adult who had not been immunised. She was removed to hospital and recovered.

**Erysipelas:** One case in an adult was notified. The patient was nursed at home and recovered.

**Malāria:** One case was reported in a recently demobilised soldier who had served overseas. He was nursed at home and recovered.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. These Regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1946.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

**Tuberculosis After-Care.**—The Committee continue to take a great interest in the welfare of patients. The preventive side of tuberculosis is stressed as well as making grants of assistance to the patients.

# MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1946.

Diseases	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Measles	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	—	1	6	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	12

# AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis), 1946.

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	1	2	4	1	—	3	—	—	—	12	3	—

### NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1946.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	1	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	1	—	—

### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1946.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—







